

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2462
Sparks State Bank
1207 Sparks Road
Sparks, Baltimore County
1916
Public

Constructed in 1916, the Sparks State Bank is representative of the many rural banks constructed throughout Baltimore County in the early 20th century. The building dates to a period of modest growth in the small community of Sparks, which developed primarily between 1877 and 1915. By 1877, Sparks Road had been constructed from York Road in Philopolis to its terminus at Carroll Road. The village formed around the Sparks station along Northern Central Railroad, and included only a school and a few dwellings along Sparks Road. The Sparks State Bank, built in 1916, would have served the few residents who lived along Sparks Road. Laban and Shadrach Sparks established the institution in 1916 under a charter from Maryland. Additionally, it would have been used by residents of the neighboring community of Glencoe, which had historically developed at a faster rate and to a greater density than Sparks. By the mid-20th century, the village of Sparks had declined, and a new bank was constructed on York Road to better serve its customers. Use of the 1916 bank ceased after the 1950s.

The Sparks State Bank is a one-and-a-half-story stone building of solid random rubble stone construction with a front gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The three-bay-wide, three-bay-deep rectangular bank fronts north on the south side of Sparks Road to the east of the Gunpowder Falls. A recessed one-light single-leaf wood door surrounded by vinyl panning centrally pierces the façade, or north elevation. Two 1/1 windows with one-light transoms flank the entry. These three openings feature square-edged wood surrounds and concrete lintels and sills. The front gable peak features a semi-circular recessed panel with a splayed round-arched lintel and a concrete sill. The roof, door and windows have been altered.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2462

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Sparks State Bank

other

2. Location

street and number 1207 Sparks Road not for publication

city, town Sparks vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Department of Natural Resources

street and number 580 Taylor Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 8426 folio 287

city, town Towson tax map 34 tax parcel 287 tax ID number 1600011451

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2462

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1916, the Sparks State Bank is a one-and-a-half-story stone building of solid random rubble stone construction with a front gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The three-bay-wide, three-bay-deep rectangular bank fronts north on the south side of Sparks Road to the east of the Gunpowder Falls. A recessed one-light single-leaf wood door surrounded by vinyl panning centrally pierces the façade, or north elevation. Two 1/1 windows with one-light transoms flank the entry. These three openings feature square-edged wood surrounds and concrete lintels and sills. The front gable peak features a semi-circular recessed panel with a splayed round-arched lintel and a concrete sill. The roof, door and windows have been altered.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2462

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1916-1954 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1916

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Constructed in 1916, the Sparks State Bank is representative of the many rural banks constructed throughout Baltimore County in the early 20th century. The building dates to a period of modest growth in the small community of Sparks, which developed primarily between 1877 and 1915. As early as 1850, the village of Sparks and the road that connected it to Philopolis, were non-existent. The land that later became the community, lying east of the Gunpowder Falls, was traversed only by a few farms.¹ By 1877, Sparks Road had been constructed from York Road in Philopolis to its terminus at Carroll Road. The village formed around the Sparks station along Northern Central Railroad, and included only a school and a few dwellings along Sparks Road.² By 1915, a post office was added to the village.³ The Sparks State Bank, built in 1916, would have served the few residents who lived along Sparks Road. Laban and Shadrach Sparks established the institution in 1916 under a charter from Maryland.⁴ Additionally, it would have been used by residents of the neighboring community of Glencoe, which had historically developed at a faster rate and to a greater density than Sparks. By the mid-20th century, the village of Sparks had declined, and a new bank was constructed on York Road to better serve its customers. Use of the 1916 bank ceased after the 1950s.⁵

¹ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

² *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

³ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

⁴ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

⁵ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2462

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Hereford

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1916, the Sparks State Bank has been associated with the .989 acres of land known as tax parcel 274 of map 34 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

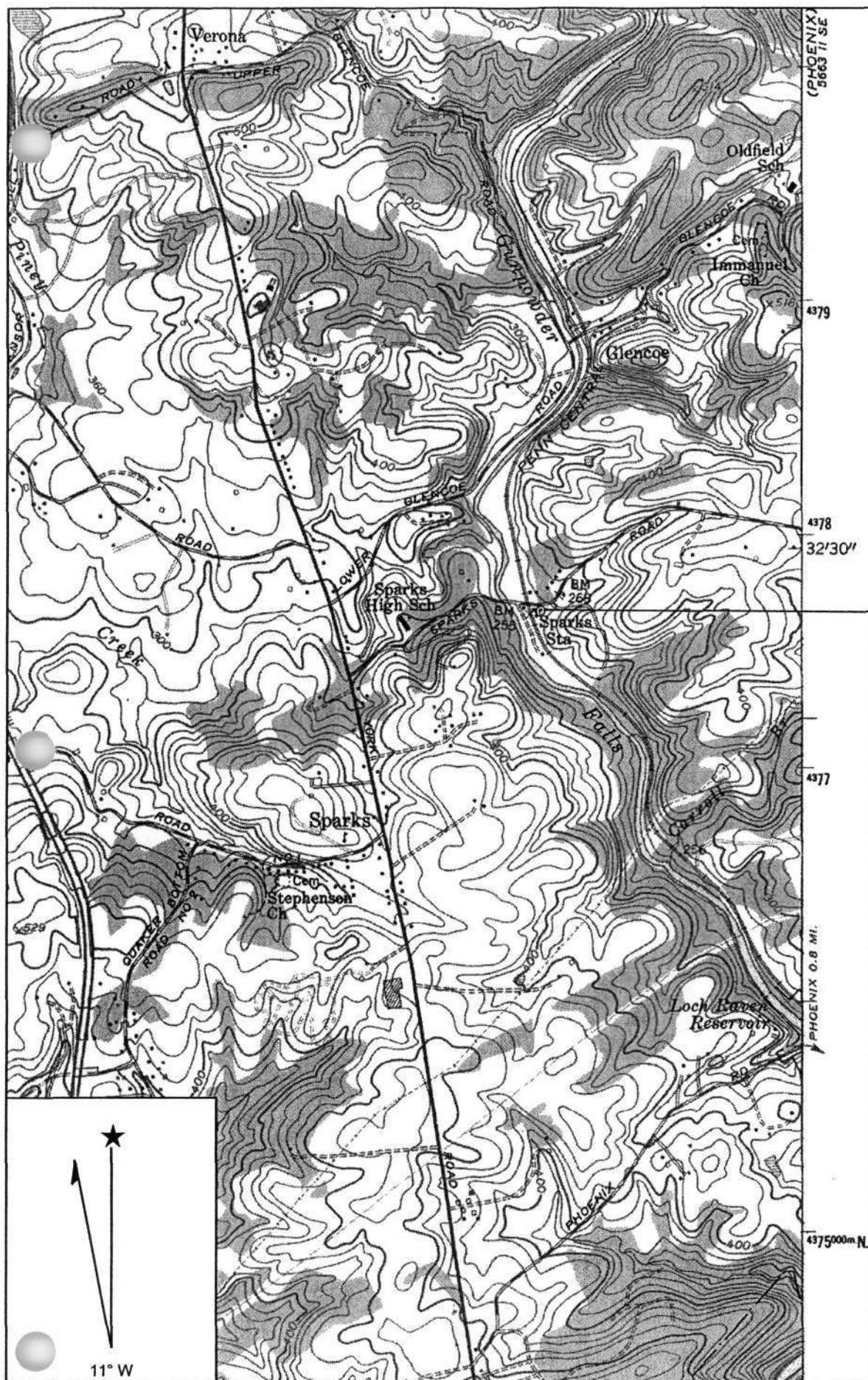
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 10, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



Location: 18 359323 E 4377328 N

Caption: BA-2462

Sparks State Bank
1207 Sparks Rd., Sparks



BA-246Z

1207 SPARKS ROAD, SPARKS
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

NW CORNER

1 of 2



BA-246Z

1207 SPARKS ROAD, SPARKS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SE CORNER

2 of 2